

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 5, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 71

Introduced by Assembly Member Weber
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bradford, Brown, *Hall*, Holden,
Jones-Sawyer, and Mitchell)
(Coauthor: Senator Wright)

July 3, 2013

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to Africana studies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 71, as amended, Weber. Africana studies programs.

This measure would formally endorse the invaluable work of California's Africana studies programs, and their faculty, staff, and students. The measure would recognize the leadership provided by the beneficiaries of those programs, and would support the continuation of Africana studies programs in California's institutions of higher education.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The academic discipline of Africana studies
- 2 encompasses research, scholarship, and programs that analyze and
- 3 reflect the experiences and contributions of African natives and
- 4 African Americans; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Formal Africana studies programs and departments
- 6 at California's universities resulted from student-led movements
- 7 dating back to the 1960s. These movements included
- 8 demonstrations and student protests, where students, faculty, and

1 community members demanded university courses relevant to
2 them and their communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Since the 1960s, Africana and Black studies have
4 been the academic and intellectual extension of the Civil Rights
5 Movement; and

6 WHEREAS, The formalization of Africana studies increased
7 awareness of the need for faculty, students, and staff from diverse
8 communities in California's universities; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Nathan Hare, known as the father of Black
10 studies programs in the United States, was the department chair
11 of the nation's first African American studies academic program
12 in 1968 at San Francisco State University. Following a similar
13 pursuit, faculty members including, but not limited to, Carrol
14 Wayman, Vernon Oaks, Norman Chambers, Shirley W. Thomas,
15 Shirley N. Weber, and Harold K. Brown developed the first Black
16 studies program at San Diego State University in 1972; and

17 *WHEREAS, In addition to offering the first African American*
18 *studies program in the United States, the California State*
19 *University has nine programs statewide as well as seven ethnic*
20 *and gender studies programs leading to undergraduate and*
21 *graduate degrees; and*

22 *WHEREAS, Over 400 students chose to major in African*
23 *American studies for fall of 2012 and another 200 in gender or*
24 *ethnic studies; and*

25 WHEREAS, The University of California campuses at Berkeley,
26 Davis, Riverside, Irvine, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara offer
27 undergraduate degrees in one of African American studies, Black
28 studies, or Afro-American studies; and

29 WHEREAS, Africana studies is comprised of several disciplines,
30 including art history, humanities, political science, behavioral
31 science, and history; and

32 WHEREAS, Africana studies, known in some departments as
33 Black, Pan-African, or Afro-American studies, encompass the
34 origin, history, culture, experiences, heritage, achievements, and
35 contributions of African natives and African Americans; and

36 WHEREAS, Africana studies, a respected academic field, has
37 fostered the development of professional organizations,
38 institutionalized departments, research journals, award-winning
39 publications, and other related programs across the United States;
40 and

1 WHEREAS, Departments, programs, and related projects in the
2 field of Africana and Black studies promote constructive
3 communication and collaborative efforts among diverse groups,
4 and encourage respect, understanding, appreciation, equality, and
5 dignity among all groups; and

6 WHEREAS, The study of the roles, contributions, and
7 achievements of African natives and African Americans provides
8 a rich and indepth perspective for understanding California and
9 United States history; and

10 WHEREAS, Africana and related studies incorporate the
11 influence of African natives and African Americans on the
12 California education system and on America's diverse racial and
13 ethnic groups; and

14 WHEREAS, Africana studies and related academic disciplines
15 promote a view of ethnic groups as significant contributors to the
16 history and diversity of California and the United States history;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Africana studies has been the model and inspiration
19 for other ethnic, gender, and social education programs throughout
20 the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, The continuation and expansion of Africana studies
22 within our state's educational system would encourage students
23 to analyze and synthesize information with a global perspective;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Support for postsecondary Africana studies
26 departments, programs, and related projects, including financial
27 support, will allow for the continued guidance and teaching of a
28 new generation of students who will enrich and contribute to
29 California policy, education, and government; now, therefore, be
30 it

31 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
32 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
33 formally endorses the invaluable work of California's Africana
34 studies departments, programs, and related projects, and their
35 faculty, staff, and students; and be it further

36 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California also
37 recognizes that the leadership provided by the beneficiaries of
38 these programs has contributed greatly to the academic rigor,
39 prominence, and distinguishing qualities of California's colleges
40 and universities and the vitality of other public and private

1 institutions, including the California state government; and be it
2 further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California supports
4 the continuation of Africana studies departments, programs, and
5 related projects in California's institutions of higher education;
6 and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
8 of this resolution to the Regents of the University of California,
9 the Trustees of the California State University, the Board of
10 Governors of the California Community Colleges, and the author
11 for appropriate distribution.

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